GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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AN ARABIAN COFFEE MAKER WITH HIS UTENSILS

(See Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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City Planning Program Ordered for Rome

SLICING away blocks of buildings to make Michigan Boulevard broad in Chicago and some other major operations on municipal geography in great American cities, appear as minor works beside the city planning program laid out for Rome.

Premier Mussolini has directed the governor of Rome to make the ancient monuments stand apart as in the days of the Empire. The governor is requested to make "The Pantheon visible through a wide avenue" and "liberate the masterful temples of Christian Rome from the parasitical constructions which now cling to them."

If the Premier's vision of Rome, "vast, ordered and powerful as it was in the time of the first empire of Augustus," is approached even in reality, the visitor will find the eternal city quite different from what it is today.

First View Disappoints Tourist

At first sight, the city is disappointing, with its conventional, smooth-paved, sunny streets, monotonous houses, trolley cars, electric lights and hotels, all of them very much like those of other modern cities. There is little trace of the famed seven hills or the temples and ruins of the history books.

This is because the visitor enters the city at its newest side. A great, busy modern city has been built over a greater ancient one, and the latter is exposed only in a few places. To get a romantic picture of Rome one must walk by the Colosseum in the moonlight or loiter on the Bridge of Angels when the star-reflections dimple the sullen Tiber, or sit by a fountain in a rose-scented garden when the nightingales are singing.

Perhaps the most vivid first-hand impressions of Rome today are of the modernness of its hotels and business houses, the number of its churches and the beauty of its many fountains. No one expects the latter, but no one forgets them once seen. Their rushing waters is one of the few characteristics of the ancient city that has been carried into the modern one. The flash and glitter of their high-tossed spray, and the rush and plunge of their heavy streams is a refreshing note in a city which knows no half-tones. For in Rome everything is bare to the pitiless glare of the sun or cowers in the deepest shade.

The Seven Hills As They Are Today

The seven hills are still there, but the intervening centuries have greatly modified them. The modern city is rolling, for the ancient hilltops have been largely shaved off and the valleys filled in to suit the needs of the trolley car and automobile.

Palatine Hill, with its ruins and cypress trees, is visible; as is the Capitoline Hill, which rises somewhat abruptly from the center of the city, crowned with churches and other buildings, and the Monte Quirinal, with its royal palace and the Trajan column. But the Monte Celio or Caelius, which was never high, has hardly any slope and would be indistinguishable but for the church of San Giovanni in Laterno. The Esquiline Hill shows the two domes of Santa Maria Maggiore; the Aventine Hill, the home of the "opposition" since Remus fled there from his brother, drops off rather sharply toward the river, but is

THE ETERNAL CITY FROM THE DOME OF ST. PETER'S

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From the dome of St. Peter's, the largest church in the world, Rome is spread out as the birds and airmen see it. Mussolini's project to make the Pantheon visible from the Piazza Colonna directs attention to the fact that not even St. Peter's has a clear outlook. The wedge of tenements in the center of the picture spoils a fine vista to the River Tiber just beyond. The smooth round dome of the Pantheon can be seen in the upper right-hand part of the picture. In the middle distance looms the Castle of St. Angelo (Hadrian's Tomb). The Royal Palace, with its gardens, is in the background, a little to the right of the center of the picture (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Yemen: Which May Have a War on Its Hands

THE FALL of Mecca, Medina, and finally Jidda, the port of the holy city of the Moslem world, before the forces of the Wahabis from the interior, leaves Yemen as the chief stronghold against the further spread of Wahabi power.

Mecca, Medina, and Jidda all lie in that sector of the Arabian coast bordering the Red Sea called Hejaz. The conquering Wahabis come from the desert region back of the coast called Nejd and their success in arms has brought about the recent abdication of King Ali of Hejaz. Many observers look for a Wahabi attack on Yemen.

Yemen's American fame rests principally upon the familiar name of an almost deserted city, Mocha, through which coffee no longer comes, where debris clutters the streets, where only mosques remain intact.

Yemenites Boil the Berry Husks

Coffee still is a major crop of Yemen, but it is exported principally through Hodeida, and in even greater quantity via Aden, port of the British protectorate to the south, which today is the commercial neck of the Red Sea bottle.

Order coffee in Yemen, however, and you will not repeat the experiment. For the Arabians of coffee-land prefer the husks to the berries, and the brew therefrom has been compared to hot barley water. To the occidental mind this concoction affords neither flavor nor stimulus. The Yemenite looks elsewhere for a stimulant—to khat—a singularly little-known leaf which is used almost universally in this region.

The Hazards of Going to Market

Yemen landscapes abound in coffee-plant terraces. Precious water is collected in cemented cisterns and the higher altitudes which are most favorable for the crop often are unfavorable for marketing. Donkeys pick their way along circuitous mountain paths with extremely small loads. The donkey trail taps some caravan route and then the grower is faced by high charges plus risk of bandits.

In recent years the government of Yemen has been disturbed by bands of outlaws. Especially troublesome are the Zaranih tribesmen of the short beard and crisp, black hair, whose attacks have stopped many caravan routes.

Many Arab tribes oppose the regime of Imman Yehia, whose scepter is supposed to be descended, in direct line, from Fatimah, daughter of the Prophet. The Seyyids, who hold they are descended from Mohammed, believe the Imman to be right in all things and have divine powers. The south Arabians, or tribesmen, hold him in no such high esteem. They are the most numerous element of the population, and they go armed.

In the lowlands of Yemen these semi-nomadic peoples raise tents of matting where the grazing and water are good, and acquire no furniture which would hinder their quick migration. Highland villages are fortresses, standing frequently on a crest of bare rock, and lift formidable tower ramparts.

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smooth and rolling in the other directions. There is nothing today to distinguish the Monte Viminale, near the railroad station.

It is only the Roman and Trajan forums, and in such isolated buildings as the Castle of St. Angelo, which Trajan's successor, Hadrian, erected as a suitable mausoleum for himself, the Colosseum, and the Baths of Caracalla, mutilated, defaced, robbed, and scorned, that one is able to get some conception of the grandeur of Rome in the days when the will of its ruler was law for the known world.

Single Modern Monument in the Grand Style

Rome today is a city of 664,000 people and the capital of united Italy. But a united Italy is such a comparatively recent fact that, in the minds of most people, the city still stands for two things—the remains of antiquity and the seat of Catholicism. In St. Peter's and the adjoining Vatican, Rome has the largest continuous series of buildings in the world. The Vatican, residence of the Pope, contains about seven thousand rooms, though some say eleven thousand, twenty courts and more than two hundred staircases.

In addition there are scores of other churches throughout the city, embracing every religion and every type of service. The five patriarchal churches of the Catholic faith, to whose congregations all Christians throughout the world were once accredited, are also located in Rome. They are magnificent edifices, and, in their exquisite paintings, mosaics, and other works of art, reveal the spendthrift days of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, when Pope and patrician rivaled each other in adorning their city.

But aside from the railroad terminal and several up-to-date hotels, Rome today has only a single contribution to its former glory—the massive monument to Victor Emmanuel II, uniter of modern Italy. Before it is the tomb of Italy's Unknown Soldier. However, in its Palazzo delle Finanze, the treasury of the country, modern Rome has a building covering thirty thousand square yards, the largest treasury building in Europe.

Rome cannot be seen or learned in a day. The remark of the French historian, Ampere, who said that a "superficial knowledge" of Rome could be acquired in a ten years' visit, gives an idea of the vast number and variety of its attractions.

Bulletin No. 1, February 1, 1926.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS for the school year beginning with the issue of....., for classroom use, to

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How the World Takes Its Vacations

"COME TO CRIMEA" is the latest vacation advertisement.

It is from Russia and vacationers are urged to travel by way of Japan, and the trans-Siberian Railroad. The idea of going three-fourths the way around the world to spend a vacation on the peninsula made famous by the "Charge of the Light Brigade" is no more odd than the vacation ideas of many peoples.

The sign post "vacation" marks an age-old trail.

Lapps of Lapland and the Bakhtiari of West Persia take the vacation trail to a cool summer climate and it is called a migration because they have to go. The Athenian gentleman went to Olympia and called his recreation interval the Olympic Games. In China and India popular thought satisfies the vacation impulse by religious pilgrimages. Japan and Germany are not yet entirely accustomed to pleasure for pleasure's sake so their sons and daughters go to health springs, "bads," or spas, but it is a vacation nevertheless. The Occident alone rewards the human desire for a change of scenes, a change of climate and relief from duty and makes no excuses for it.

Olympic Games the First Vacation Excursion

Olympic games of ancient Greece were probably the first vacation excursions. Before their organization, 800 B. C., traveling was risky. The mountains might invite in summer, but if a man loved life he stayed in his own little kingdom though he cooked and boiled and baked in the sun. In Greece, for one month following the first full moon after June 21, every four years, a general peace proclamation went out through the states of Greece permitting contestants and hordes of excursionists to go safely to the beautiful vale of Olympia. The Assyrian kings got around the vacation problem without leaving Babylon; they built the famous hanging gardens which supplied the charms of cool, moist air under verdant foliage.

It is well known that Rome marked its conquests not with lead plates or flagpoles, but with bath houses. Many of the innumerable health springs of Europe, gathering places for multitudes to cure disease and to enjoy vacations, boast of Roman origin. The site of Bath in England attracted one of the largest Roman settlements by its famous springs.

"Bad" in German means health spring and towns with "bad" before or after the names are almost as frequent as "Main Streets" in America. There is Baden, Austria, the noted watering place of the Viennese—rich and poor. There is Baden, Switzerland, and the principality of Baden, Germany. The latter alone contains the health spring towns, Badenweiler, Antogast, Griesbach, Friersbach, culminating in Baden Baden, thus named in an effort to distinguish it from the other "bads." The word "spa," for health spring resorts has its origin in the Belgium town Spa, once the most famous in Europe.

Vacation Styles Change for Kings, Too

The Prince of Wales goes in for outdoor life on a Canadian ranch, and the King of Spain summers at San Sebastian, the Spanish counterpart to Biarritz, whereas Peter the Great of Russia and monarchs of Austria and Sweden bathed

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Jews Suffer Peculiar Restrictions

Yemen's hides now vie with coffee as a valuable export. These, too, are loaded on camel caravans, which bear them to Aden for shipping.

Moslem rulers dislike the Jews and, in Yemen they suffer persecutions of a peculiar sort. They can erect no buildings more than two stories high, they are forbidden to enter a town on horseback, and even when meeting a Moslem on a country road they must dismount while passing him.

Their worship is not prohibited, though they are permitted to build no synagogues or schools. Of Yemen's million or more population the Jews are believed to number at least 75,000. They live either in towns of their own or in quarters of larger cities.

Bulletin No. 2, February 1, 1926.

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THE FAVORITE MODE OF COMMUNICATION IN THE SOUTH SEAS

The outrigger canoe with sail is one of the unique types of world ships. Note that the outrigger serves not only to stabilize the canoe but also as a support for ropes holding the mast in position (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Santa Barbara: The Mentone of America

SANTA BARBARA has gone far toward recovery from the serious damage of the earthquake of last summer and among its most recent projects is a plan for a new breakwater to protect the harbor.

The city has a far older pedigree than most Californian cities, since it was founded by the Spaniards. On a hill at the head of a plain sloping gently to the sea the old Franciscan Fathers planted Santa Barbara Mission, probably the best known of those famous religious edifices that were strung along the "Camino Real" in Spanish days. On the two-mile slope between the mission and the ocean the city grew up—a sleepy Indian and Mexican village at first, then an American town of typical Californians.

Thanks to the barrier of the Santa Ynez Mountains, which rise to a height of several thousand feet immediately behind the city, Santa Barbara is sheltered from northern winds and has an almost ideal winter climate. Because of this and the large winter colony that has been drawn there, the city has come to be called "the American Mentone," after the well-known winter resort on France's sunny Mediterranean coast.

The Most Famous Mission in Santa Barbara

With the town's growth in popularity, the hand of man added still more to its charms. People of wealth moved to Santa Barbara from all parts of the United States to build handsome residences and develop extensive estates, until now Santa Barbara has one of the largest "millionaire colonies" on the west coast. The center of this development, with its adjuncts of country clubs and polo fields, is in the suburb of Montecito, in the coastal hills several miles east of Santa Barbara.

The most famous building in Santa Barbara—and more famous than any of the natural features of the region—is the Santa Barbara Mission, the only twin-towered mission in California. The earthquake history of this mission is interesting in the light of the quake last summer. Built in 1786, the original mission was destroyed by an earthquake early in the 19th century. When it was rebuilt between 1815 and 1820 the Franciscan Fathers deliberately made it especially massive in the hope that it would withstand future quakes. Its walls are of stone and mortar six feet thick and are strengthened outside by massive buttresses nine feet square at the bases. This heavy construction has withstood the minor disturbances of more than a century but so powerful were the vibrations of the recent earthquake that the towers were shaken down and the front wall was toppled over.

Ocean-side Railway Affords Rare Views

The city of Santa Barbara extends from the edge of the Pacific up the foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Many of the business buildings are on relatively low ground not far from the Pacific. Residences have been built up the mountain slopes to the north, east and west.

Because of its mountain barrier, Santa Barbara's railways enter the city along the ocean and afford travelers for many miles east and west of the city some of the most interesting ocean views to be found on the west coast. At places the rails are only a few feet above the high-water mark.

in and drank chemically scented water in Spa. King George of England goes to the Riviera for a vacation, but his ancestral namesakes went to the pumphouse of Bath.

In the hills west of Peking are the ruins of one of the most beautiful summer resorts the world has seen, the Summer Palace of Manchu emperors. The Jade Fountain, a fine large spring, has been the site of summer palaces for Chinese sovereigns since the 10th century. But the most beautiful was that built by the poet emperor in 1661. Jesuit priests described to him the beauties of Versailles Palace and he wove some of the designs into his own plans. A Jesuit supervised the development of the palace enclosure. Here the emperor took his ease on a royal barge floating on a sapphire lake in the midst of which rose an artificial mountain girded with marble bastions.

In reprisal for the torture of captives, the British troops sacked the Summer Palace, in 1860, burned its buildings to the ground and leveled the pagodas. Today the grass buries broken fragments of grandeur and only some fine bridges and a bronze temple remain as reminders of "the palace that lost its soul." Nearby the Dowager Empress later built herself a summer home with $50,000,000 which should have paid for a navy to defend China from Japan. The only boat that China got was the marble barge on the sapphire lake. It has a hideous wooden cabin where tourists may now buy lukewarm beer.

Japanese Pay Vacation Expenses With Lottery

Climbing Fujiyama is the cherished Japanese idea of a vacation. Although the numerous hot springs of the nation attract thousands annually, Mount Fuji is their Mecca. Every true Japanese expects to climb it once in his lifetime. It is sacred to both Shinto and Buddhist believers; to the former it is the beautiful goddess "causing flowers to bloom brightly," to the latter it is the folded bud of the sacred Lotus.

The desire to climb the perfect snow-white cone of Fuji has given rise to vacation lotteries throughout Japan. The lucky ticket gives its holder sufficient funds to ascend the Supreme Altar and salute the Sun as it turns the Sea of Cotton, as the Japanese call the cloud roof, into a Fleece of Gold. All summer thousands of pilgrims, staves in hand, gowned in heavy clothing for the low temperatures, and wearing straw hats shaped like the cone of Fuji itself, toil up the trail marked yellow against the black volcanic sand by discarded sandals.

Whether by accident or plan, the most holy time to journey to Mecca coincides with the most delightful season in the desert. Spring in the Arabian desert comes after the winter rains in January and February. Then the waste of sand and rock is cool green for a brief time. Dusty shrubs bearing all appearances of having been years dead, suddenly burst into new green. Brilliant desert flowers blossom into tinted meadows. The wells are full with water that must last another long, dry year. Camels once more acquire fat humps. This is the time when thousands of pilgrims take the long road to Mecca to satisfy religious duty, and, though they may not admit it, to satisfy the wanderlust and the human desire to see new beauty.

Favorite Resorts of the Nations

Each nation has its Atlantic City. Peruvians go down to Barranca on the Pacific, the French in Algeria go to Tlemcen in the hills back from the Mediterranean, Athens listens to French operettas in Phaleron on the bay where galleys of ancient Athens were sheltered. Egyptians desert the muddy Nile for Ramleh, a few miles from Alexandria and on the edge of the delta's fan. Rumania goes to Constanza. Outcast religious sects used to find refuge in the heights of Lebanon Mountains of north Palestine. Now the remaining cedar groves offer retreat for vacationists from the hot plains. In India the British annually move their capitial to Simla in the hills. The Lido, an island near Venice, is the famous ocean resort of Italy; and the east shore of the Baltic is one vast bathing beach during the brief summer.

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American Samoa Asks Food From U. S. After Storm

EMERGENCY calls for food for Polynesian Americans in the South Sea have reached the Navy Department from the naval governor at Pago Pago. The American Samoan islands have been lashed in a terrific hurricane which destroyed the bread fruit and banana plantations and damaged the coconut crop.

The headquarters for emergency rationing will be Pago Pago, which also suffered severely from the storm. The Samoan islands, of which the splendid port of Pago Pago is capital, are the only American soil south of the equator.

Pago Pago practically fell into the lap of a none too willing America, while various powers were seeking island territory in the Pacific, but if the entire South Seas had been combed, with all the other nations standing deferentially by, a better location for a naval base hardly could have been chosen. Most South Sea harbors are little more than crescent bays, protected by coral reefs, their safety largely dependent on the direction of the wind. At Pago Pago ships sail into the heart of a huge extinct volcanic crater, only a narrow entrance open to the sea. Furthermore, there is a sharp turn inside, the whole harbor being shaped much like the ankle and foot of a stocking.

Port on Largest Island in Group

The United States Naval Station is situated on the "instep," its back toward the sea, but with high mountains intervening. Pago Pago town lies at the "toe." Most of the anchorage is entirely out of sight of the sea, and the ships lie in deep placid water even when destructive gales are blowing outside.

Giving Pago Pago the premier place among the South Sea havens does not do it justice. Many famous harbors are more commodious; but it is hardly too much to say that Pago Pago is at once one of the safest and most beautiful harbors in the world. A narrow strip of level land rims the harbor. Immediately beyond this strip the sides rise up steeply to mountainous heights, the sloping walls covered with varying shades of green, tropical vegetation. In addition to the naval station and Pago Pago town, three or four villages nestle close to the water's edge around the harbor, their thatched huts half hidden by coconut palms.

The harbor of Pago Pago almost cuts the island of Tutuila in two. This is the largest isle of American Samoa, 17 miles long and about 5 wide. The other American islands lie about 60 miles to the east. Only one, Tau, about 5 miles in diameter, is of importance, though two smaller isles are inhabited. Many native houses were razed on Tau. Altogether the population of American Samoa is about 8,000, some 6,000 residing on Tutuila.

One White Plantation Owner

American Samoa has been little spoiled by the civilization of the mother country, or that of other whites. Few whites reside in the islands besides the small group of missionaries and the officers, men and nurses at the naval station. Only one plantation is owned by a white man and only three or four whites have leaseholds. Practically the entire surface of the islands is owned in small tracts by individual natives. The United States even bought from individual landlords the 40 acres needed for its naval establishment.

The main highways which connect Santa Barbara with the remainder of the State also parallel the coast. So close do the hills approach the ocean east of the city that at places it has been necessary to drive piles into the beach and construct the road on them around the cliffs. The motorist driving over these "sea going" stretches of highway often hears the breakers thundering immediately beneath him.

Famous for Water Sports

Santa Barbara is situated on the only extensive section of the coast of California which lies almost directly east and west. It is about 360 miles down the coast from San Francisco and not more than 75 miles from the ports of Los Angeles. Its situation has made it famous as a place for water sports. About 25 miles offshore lies a string of partly submerged mountains, the Santa Barbara Islands, which make Santa Barbara Channel between them and the mainland a yachtsman's paradise.

Bulletin No. 4, February 1, 1926.

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FUJIYAMA, THE OBJECT OF MANY A JAPANESE "VACATION".

The favorite summer trip of the Japanese citizen is to make the ascent of Fujiyama. This famous snow-capped cone is sacred to both the Shinto and Buddhist religions. Lotteries are often organized to supply the lucky drawer with sufficient funds to make the trip up Fujiyama (see Bulletin No. 3).

In the past the lava-lava, a sort of short skirt or kilt, was the only garment worn by both men and women. Now slight concessions are made. In Pago Pago or in the presence of whites the men add a sort of undershirt and the women a sort of jacket or smock. Among themselves, however, and in the outlying districts, the natives still let the lava-lava, tucked about the waist, serve in place of the white man's and white woman's more complex costume.

In governmental matters too, the United States has practiced *laissez faire* to an extent highly appreciated by the natives. The system employed so successfully by the Dutch in the East Indies has been adopted. An American naval officer stationed at the Pago Pago depot is appointed governor, but all officials under him in control over the natives are native hereditary chiefs.

Bulletin No. 5, February 1, 1926.

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THE OVERCOAT OF AN ARABIAN

A large coat of goat's or camel's hair is in the possession of practically every man in Arabia. It serves as a protection from the sun at daytime and as a blanket at night (see Bulletin No. 2).